

REMARKS

The specification and Abstract have been amended. Claims 1 - 4, 7 - 8, 10, 12, 16 - 19, and 21 have been amended. Claims 14 - 15 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 23 - 24 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 13 and 16 - 24 are now in the application.

I. Objection to the Specification

Paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action dated August 25, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") state that the Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to. The Abstract has been shortened to less than 150 words, and the Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 8, 10, 12, and 14 - 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Richards et al., U. S. Patent 5,179,654. Claims 14 - 15 have been cancelled. This rejection is respectfully traversed with reference to Claims 1 - 8, 10, 12, and 16 - 21.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 have been amended to more clearly specify the key pairs and their relationships to the name pairs and string pairs (in Claim 1) or topic pairs and text pairs (in Claims 10, 12, and 16). In particular, the key pairs comprise two keys, each of which

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points to a key in another of the pairs. In Claim 1, for example, the first key from each key pair points to a key in one of the name pairs and the second key from each key pair points to a key in one of the string pairs. In the other independent claims, the first key from each key pairs points to a key in one of the topic pairs and the second key from each key pair points to a key in one of the text pairs.

Applicant does not find teachings of these limitations in the Richards reference. In particular, Applicant does not find any "key pairs" in Richards, in contrast to the key pairs which are specified as limitations in each of Applicant's independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16. Furthermore, Applicant finds no teaching of a first key, from a key pair, that points to a key from a different plurality of pairs, while a second key from that key pair points to a key from yet another plurality of pairs.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that his independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 are patentable over Richards. Dependent Claims 2 - 8, and 16 - 21 are therefore deemed patentable over the reference as well, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 20 of the Office Action states that Claims 9, 11, 13, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards in view of Java 2 Platform SE v1.3.1: Class ListResourceBundle. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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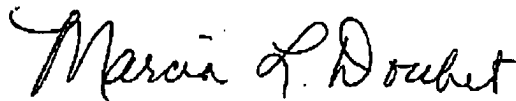
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As discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that his independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 are patentable over Richards. Dependent Claims 9, 11, 13, and 22 are therefore deemed patentable over the reference by virtue of the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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